

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

21933

Economic and Systematic Botany
Economic Geobotany
Rec'd OCT 3 1920

THE HEMLOCK

"America's Most Beautiful Evergreen"

LIBRARY
RECEIVED



U. S. Department of Agriculture



AS PRESENTED BY THIS COUNTRY'S

Largest Hemlock Grower

THE CHAS. G. CURTIS CO.

CALLICOON, NEW YORK



One of Our Many Blocks of Well Developed Hemlocks

*Thirty Years
with
Hemlocks
1903 - 1933*

FOR THIRTY YEARS we have handled and studied our native *Tsuga canadensis* (Canada Hemlock). During the past ten years of that period there has been a rapidly increasing interest shown in its possibilities. There also has arisen considerable misunderstanding regarding its proper use and care.

For these reasons we have compiled this brief pamphlet dealing with the Hemlock as one of our most used ornamentals. We have tried to picture it in its true light and we trust that it will prove to be a useful reference for those that are interested in this "Most Beautiful Evergreen."

The Canada Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is such a natural part of our wood lots and forest lands throughout the northeastern part of this country that we seldom look at it in its proper perspective.

The Hemlock is without doubt the most graceful of American conifers. Its adaptability to so many uses as an ornamental easily places it as the most desirable evergreen for all around landscape use. The Hemlock foliage completely blends with our most used ornamental trees and shrubs. It maintains its symmetry and grows well in shady locations and when once established it will withstand the most adverse climatic conditions.

A Hemlock tree often has the reputation of being difficult to grow. This is true with collected trees and trees that are improperly handled in the nursery.

For good success with Hemlocks they should be at least once transplanted and should never remain in one place for more than three years. After three years in one place instead of having a well fibred, compact root system, the tree will revert back to a collected tree with long lateral surface roots. In the latter state it is impossible to handle them with complete success.

On the other hand if a Hemlock is grown as it should be in the nursery and a compact, heavy root system develops, the Hemlock is no harder to grow than any other evergreen. The point is, be sure that the Hemlocks that you purchase are grown by a reliable nurseryman who understands how they should be grown.

COLLECTED HEMLOCKS

Collected Hemlocks can be grown with average success, if bought from a reliable collector and all conditions being favorable. A great deal depends upon weather and the soil when the tree is dug. No matter how careful one is, collected Hemlocks are always a risk. We never ship them unless there is a definite understanding that the consignee assume the entire responsibility.

A nursery grown tree four feet high is much more desirable than a six to seven foot collected tree. The former will overtake the latter within two years and will prove to be a thriftier and more graceful tree.

Except for the very large fifteen to thirty foot trees, where great height is needed regardless of expense or risk, there seems to be no advantage in collected Hemlocks over the nursery grown.

HOW WE GROW THE HEMLOCK

Our trees are grown from seed in our own seedbeds. They have been from three to five times transplanted and sheared each year. Each tree is individually planted in a bed of humus soil and no better root system could be developed than are found on these trees. This compact, firm ball of roots will withstand drastic changes without appreciable effect, however any evergreen must have certain special care to insure the best success.

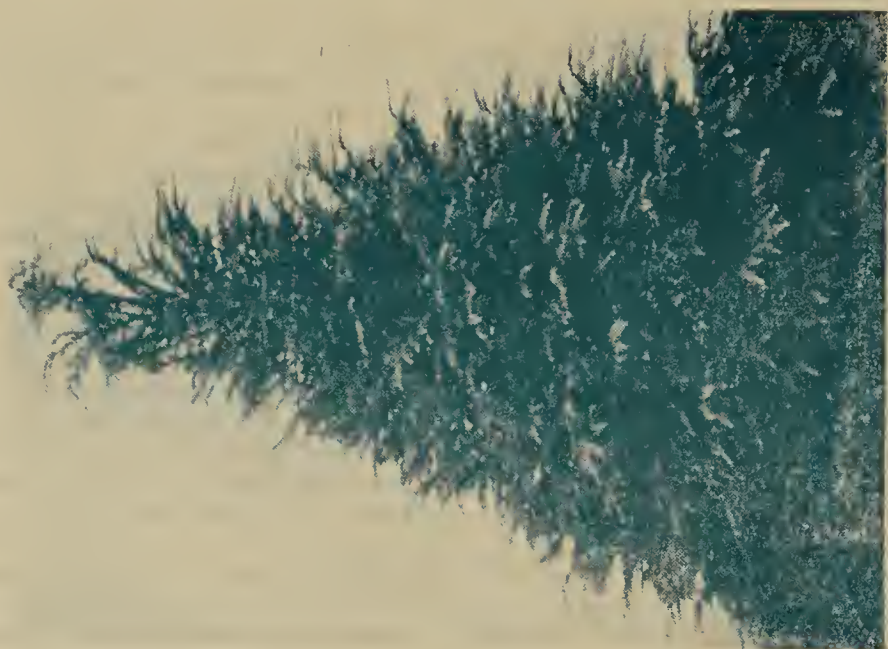
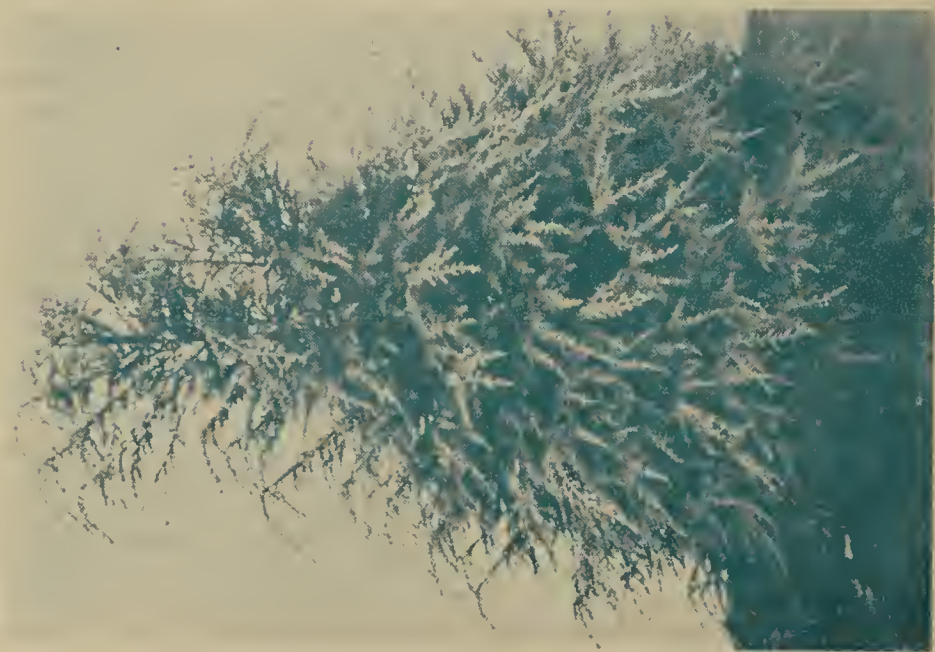
In planting, a leaf mold or humus soil is most desirable. This soil should not be mixed with the native soil but placed in the hole or trench in its pure state. The tree then should be planted directly in this soil working it around the roots. The heavier native soil should be placed over it as the humus will readily dry out when directly exposed to the sun. However, when used under the other soil it will hold moisture around the roots. Hemlocks need an acid soil and therefore humus gives them the correct amount of acidity. The small root fibres will catch in this humus when the trees are transplanted and keep on growing. It seems to greatly reduce the shock of moving into foreign locations.

VARIETIES OF TSUGA CANADENSIS

In our nursery we have about a dozen different varieties or variations of the *Tsuga canadensis*. Although we do not handle them in a commercial way, anyone interested in the Hemlock would enjoy studying these variations and their possibilities for use in landscape work.

DISEASES AND INSECTS

One great advantage in having Hemlocks on your place is that they are not susceptible to injurious diseases and insects. This is quite exceptional as spruce, pine and most other evergreens have some insect or disease that may either destroy them or make them unfit for ornamental purposes.

*Specimen Type**Naturalistic Type**Hedge Type*



Compact Specimen Hemlocks for Framing Entrance



Group of Hemlocks of the Specimen and Hedge Types

LANDSCAPE USES OF THE HEMLOCK

The Hemlock is a most unusual evergreen because it can be applied to so many diversified uses in the landscape plan. We know of no other evergreen that can be used to this extent. A Hemlock can be grown successfully in deep shade or strong sunlight. It can be heavily sheared or allowed to maintain the forest tree size.

In applying it to the landscape plan the following are its principal uses:

(1) As a Hedge

If the view from your living room window is objectionable, it is easy to see that your property could not hold the same value that it would if that view were blotted out by a thick mass of evergreen foliage. The cost of planting such a Hemlock hedge is negligible compared with the increased value that the property would hold after this was accomplished. A sheared Hemlock hedge is as dense as a wall and can be sheared to almost any shape or size.

Such a hedge often can be used to border that section of your property which you desire to develop most extensively.

We have Hemlock trees sheared especially for hedge planting and can furnish trees that would give the very best immediate effect in a hedge six to eight feet high.

(2) As a Background

Because the Hemlock foliage blends so well with the foliage of most shrubs and small trees it is ideal for use as a background in the planting scheme. Kalmia, Rhododendrons, Azaleas and the like work in perfectly with the Hemlock.

(3) Border Planting

Small densely foliated Hemlocks twelve to twenty inches in height make a perfect small hedge for border planting. To block in a lawn area there is no tree that is better suited for the purpose than the hemlock. No other evergreen maintains its graceful appearance after being sheared. A small hedge can be maintained at about its original size without injury to the trees.

(4) Naturalistic Effects

Should you wish to represent a wooded glen, natural woods or simply enrich your present wood lot with an evergreen that would persist under shade, a Hemlock would be the very best tree for this purpose. It is a forest tree, therefore it blends very nicely with the foliage of the other trees. No glen or brookside planting is complete without the Hemlock.

We grow types of Hemlock especially for naturalistic and forest planting.

(5) Individual Planting

What is more beautiful for individual specimen planting than the heavily thickly foliated Hemlock? Such trees are found in but few nurseries in this country. They are the product of systematic shearing from the time the tree is one foot in height.

Please, note the description and chart of dimensions at the bottom of the page for Hemlock trees as we class them in our nursery.

CLASSIFYING THE HEMLOCK AS TO TYPES

We classify Hemlocks in our nursery into three distinct types, namely: (1) Hedge, (2) Naturalistic, (3) Individual Specimen.

The Hedge type of tree are those trees generally cylindrical and unusually heavy near the top.

The Naturalistic type of tree are those that are symmetrical in shape, well branched on all sides, open foliated and a single leader.

The Individual Specimens are the very heaviest sheared tree that can be grown. It may have a double or single leader. This is a perfect tree.

SCALE FOR SPREAD AND HEIGHT OF OUR
HEMLOCK

TREE TYPES					
Height of Tree	Naturalistic		Hedge		Specimen
2 to 3 ft.	24" to 34"	Spread	28" to 36"	Spread	34" to 42" Spread
3 to 4 ft.	28" to 38"	"	32" to 42"	"	42" to 46" "
4 to 5 ft.	36" to 42"	"	38" to 44"	"	48" to 54" "
5 to 6 ft.	42" to 50"	"	44" to 52"	"	52" to 56" "
6 to 7 ft.	46" to 54"	"	46" to 56"	"	56" to 66" "

OUR HEMLOCKS

We have in the neighborhood of 500,000 trees ranging from 10 inches to 10 feet in height. There is no type of Hemlock tree in this range of sizes that we do not have in its maximum stage of thriftiness.

Landscape men using our Hemlock trees during the past ten years can vouch for their unusual quality.

To the nurserymen for lining out stock, we offer the finest possible supply of Hemlock seedlings. We can supply these in thousand lots from 4 to 18 inches high.

OUR HUMUS

We can supply this Humus and can ship it with the trees for planting purposes. We can pack 3 to 5 tons in a car with plants. This could then be shoveled out and used in the planting. We can ship by carload in bulk or bagged.

LOCATION OF OUR NURSERIES

Our nurseries are located at Callicoon, New York, which is on the Pennsylvania border along the Delaware River. We have nurseries in both states.

We are on the main line of the Erie Railroad—all express trains stop at Callicoon.

We are just off Route 17, the New York Southern Tier east to west highway with good connecting highways from Roscoe, Liberty or Monticello into Callicoon.

So either by rail or highway pay us a visit and see our most unusual nursery.

